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Subject: Loss report for mallards in Riverside County
Date: Thursday, February 15, 2018 6:26:05 PM
Attachments: [P3264.pdf](#)

Hello, I have attached a loss report for mallards in Riverside County. If you have any questions or comments, please contact me. -001

Thank you.

Stella McMillin
Senior Environmental Scientist
California Department of Fish and Wildlife
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory
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**DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
WILDLIFE BRANCH
WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY
PESTICIDE INVESTIGATIONS
1701 NIMBUS ROAD
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PHONE (916) 358-2954**

**Lab Number P-3264
Necropsy Z18-0034
CAHFS Number D1800819**

**Date of loss: December 27, 2017
Sample: Mallard (2)
Anas platyrhynchos
Protection status: No special status**

**To: Ruben Arroyo
Riverside County Agricultural Commissioner**

Report Date: February 12, 2018

-001

Remarks

Strychnine intoxication in three mallards at country club in Riverside County.

Background

On December 29, 2017, CDFW received a report of possible poisoning of a few mallards in the Indian Palms County Club. These ducks were observed to be weak and unable to walk before death. Three mallards were collected and submitted to CDFW Wildlife Investigations Laboratory (WIL) to determine cause of death. Two mallards were submitted to the California Animal Health and Food Safety Laboratory (CAHFS) in Davis to for further analysis. One mallard was retained at WIL to examine digestive contents.

RESULTS OF EXAMINATION

Necropsies on two mallards were performed at CAHFS on January 17, 2018. Both mallards were adult females in moderate body condition with marked postmortem decomposition. Grain bait appearing to contain both millet and wheat with green coating was observed in the crop of one mallard, while the other mallard had scant crop contents. No bromethalin was detected in the adipose tissue of either mallard, but strychnine was detected in the crop contents of both mallards, indicating intoxication. Strychnine is used to control pocket gophers and may only be applied legally underground.

WILDLIFE INVESTIGATIONS LABORATORY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stella McMillin".

**Stella McMillin, Senior Environmental Scientist
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

Approved

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "De Clifford". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

**Dr. Deana Clifford, Senior Wildlife Veterinarian,
Wildlife Investigations Laboratory**

**Cc: Marilyn Palmer-Townsend,
CDPR**

**David Kratville,
CDFA**

**Robert Miller,
USEPA**